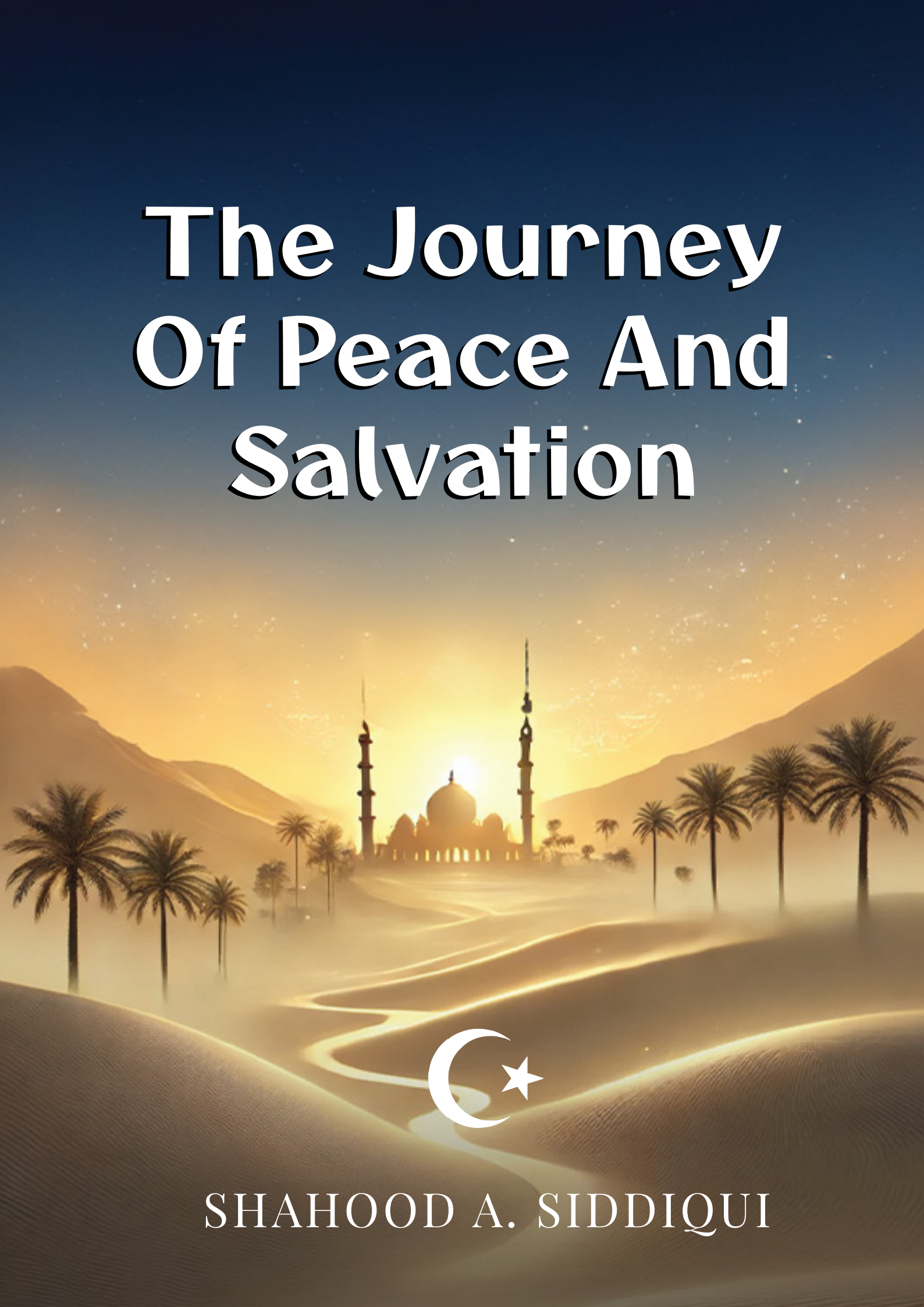
The Journey Of Peace And Salvation



SHAHOOD A. SIDDIQUI

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ

SAMA-O-BASR

لِوَجْهِ ٱللَّهِ لَا نُرِيدُ مِنكُمْ جَزَآءً وَلَا شُكُورًا

Only for Allah's pleasure! We neither seek reward from you nor thanks.

(Published January 2025)

ABOUT THIS BOOK:

This book represents a contribution to nurturing future leaders by offering holistic development opportunities for children across intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional domains. It emphasises the significance of investing in children's growth beyond academics, with a focus on fostering qualities such as moral integrity and empathy that are essential for effective leadership.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

iCAN Sama-o-Basr acknowledges and is grateful to Br. Irfan Akram for proof-reading this book.

Graphic Design and illustration:
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FOREWORD:

Asalamu Alaikum...
May peace and blessings be upon you!

Welcome to the Young Reader Series, where we endeavour to make the wisdom of Islamic teachings accessible and engaging for young minds. In this series, we present to you "The Journey of Peace and Salvation," a story inspired by the profound work of Syed Abul'ala Maududi's (RA) "Salamti ka Rasta" (The Road to Peace and Salvation), masterfully translated by Huda Khattab (RA) in May 1994. While the characters in our tale are entirely fictional, their journey serves as a vehicle to convey key concepts deeply rooted in Islamic teachings.

This narrative underscores the central Islamic belief in Tawheed, emphasising the oneness of Allah (God) as the divine Creator, all-knowing, all-powerful, and the Sovereign of the Universe. The story also echoes the Islamic principles of accountability, justice, and fairness, emphasising the importance of living in accordance with divine guidance and treating all individuals with compassion.

Furthermore, it touches upon the Islamic concept of submission to Allah's will and the importance of acknowledging human fallibility while striving for self-improvement. Lastly, the narrative emphasises the potential for individuals to be positive influences on others through their actions and values, aligning with the Islamic tradition of being exemplary role models.

(O Prophet), you cannot grant guidance to whom you please. It is Allah Who guides those whom He will. He knows best who are amenable to guidance.

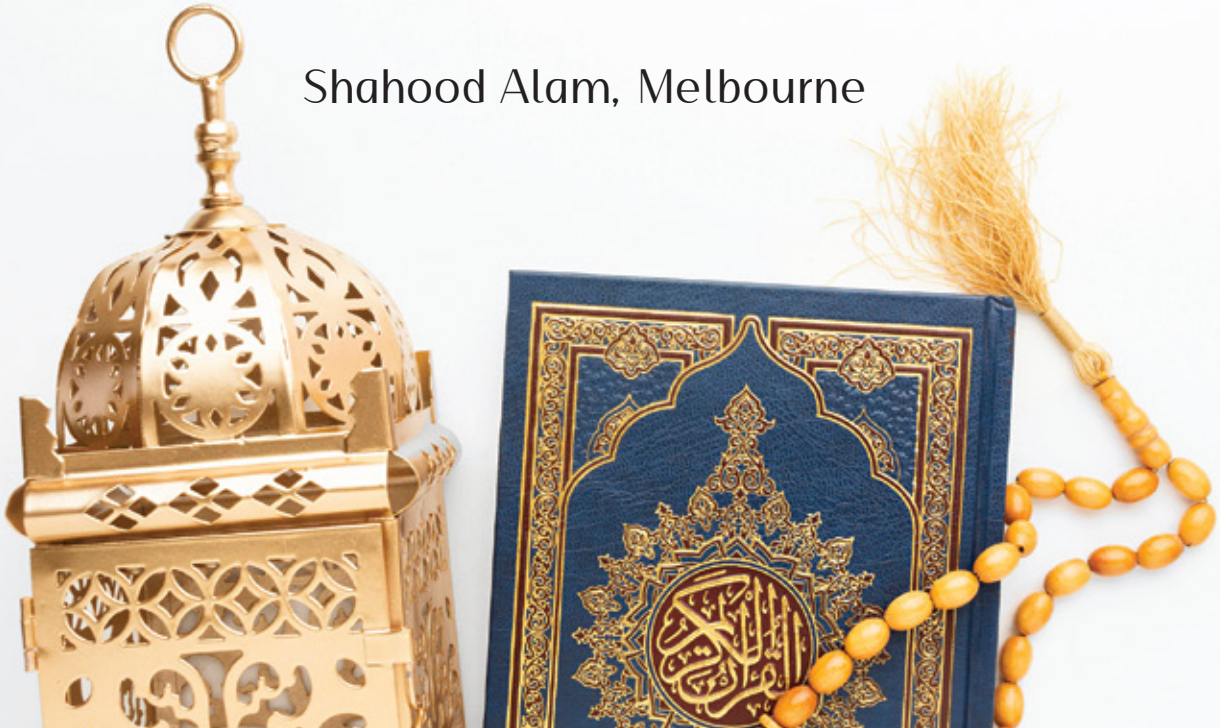
Surah Al-Qasas (28:56)

The Prophet (ﷺ) said: A man follows the religion of his friend; so each one should consider whom he makes his friend.

(Sunan Abu Dawood, Book 41, Hadith 4833)

We invite you to this journey with us, exploring these timeless Islamic principles and values through the lens of our fictional characters. May this story serve as a source of inspiration, enlightenment, and a deeper understanding of the beautiful teachings of Islam, contributing to the pursuit of peace, unity, and spiritual growth.

Shahood Alam, Melbourne



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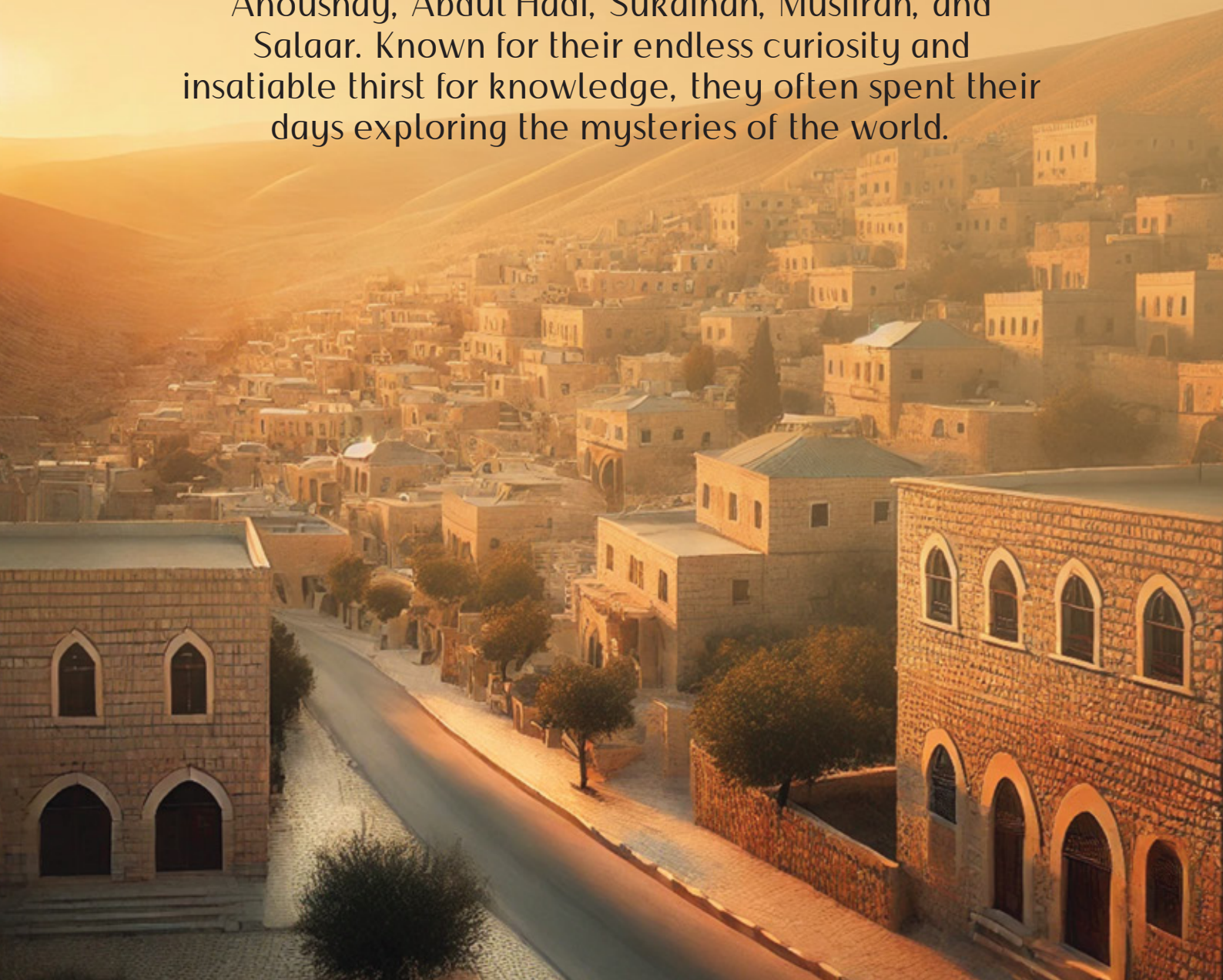
CHAPTER 1:

THE CURIOUS MINDS

In a small, serene town named Al-Muftarah, there resided a group of five inquisitive children

Anoushay, Abdul Hadi, Sukainah, Musfirah, and Salaar. Known for their endless curiosity and insatiable thirst for knowledge, they often spent their days exploring the mysteries of the world.

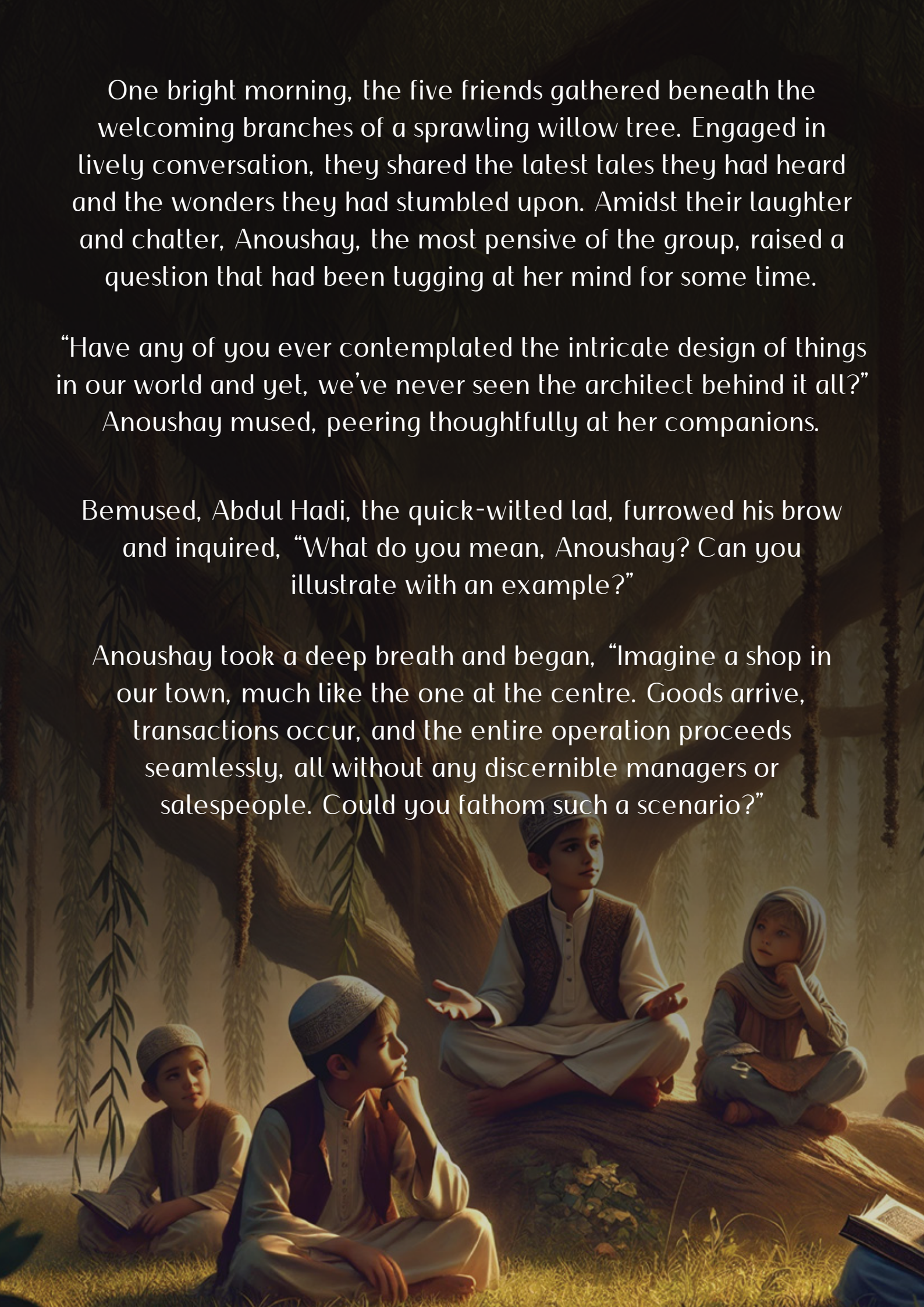


One bright morning, the five friends gathered beneath the welcoming branches of a sprawling willow tree. Engaged in lively conversation, they shared the latest tales they had heard and the wonders they had stumbled upon. Amidst their laughter and chatter, Anoushay, the most pensive of the group, raised a question that had been tugging at her mind for some time.

“Have any of you ever contemplated the intricate design of things in our world and yet, we’ve never seen the architect behind it all?” Anoushay mused, peering thoughtfully at her companions.

Bemused, Abdul Hadi, the quick-witted lad, furrowed his brow and inquired, “What do you mean, Anoushay? Can you illustrate with an example?”

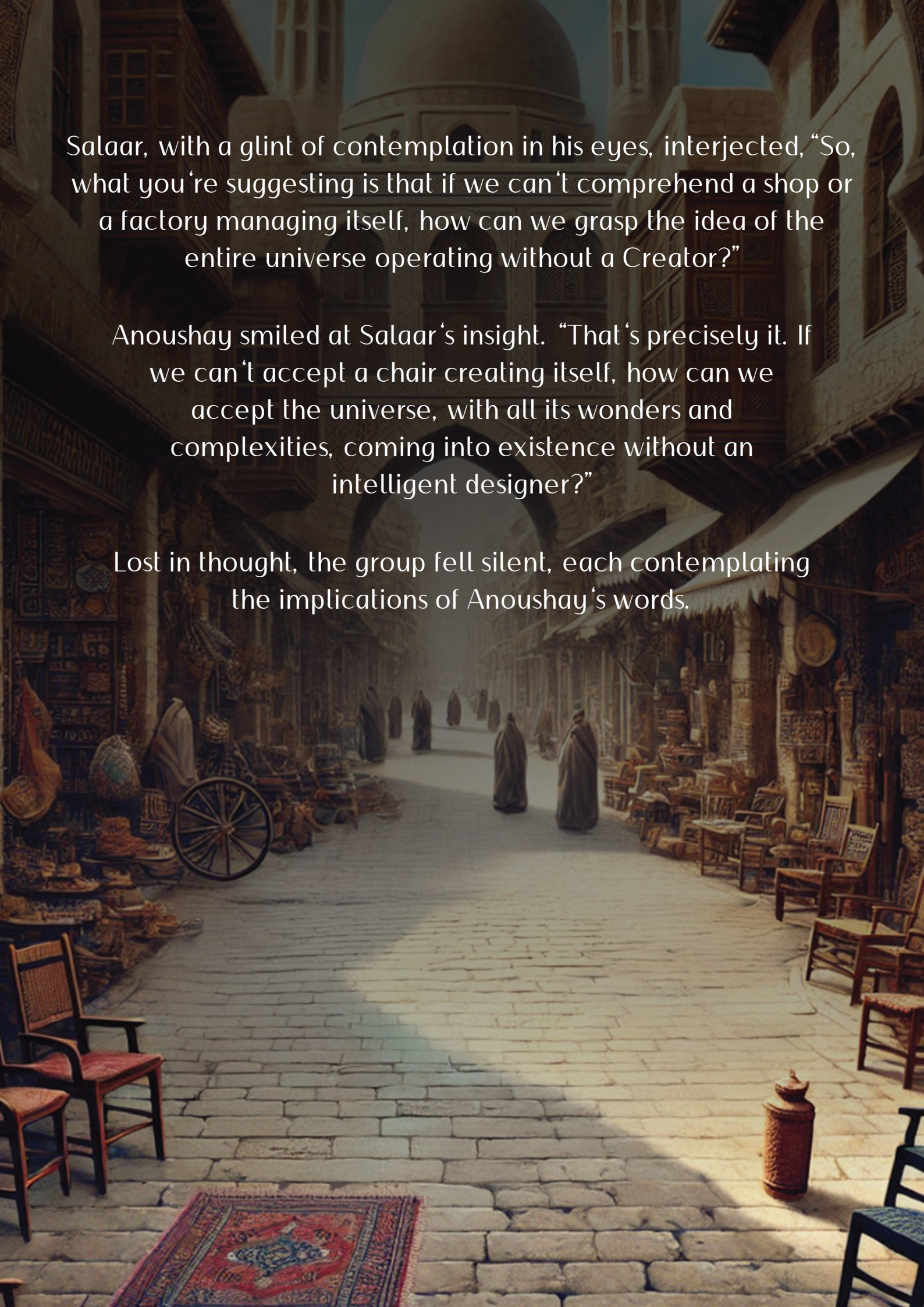
Anoushay took a deep breath and began, “Imagine a shop in our town, much like the one at the centre. Goods arrive, transactions occur, and the entire operation proceeds seamlessly, all without any discernible managers or salespeople. Could you fathom such a scenario?”



Sukainah's eyes widened in disbelief. "That's preposterous! How could that even be possible without someone overseeing it all?"

Musfirah, with her deep fascination for the sciences, chimed in, "And what about factories? How could they possibly function without managers, engineers, or workers?"

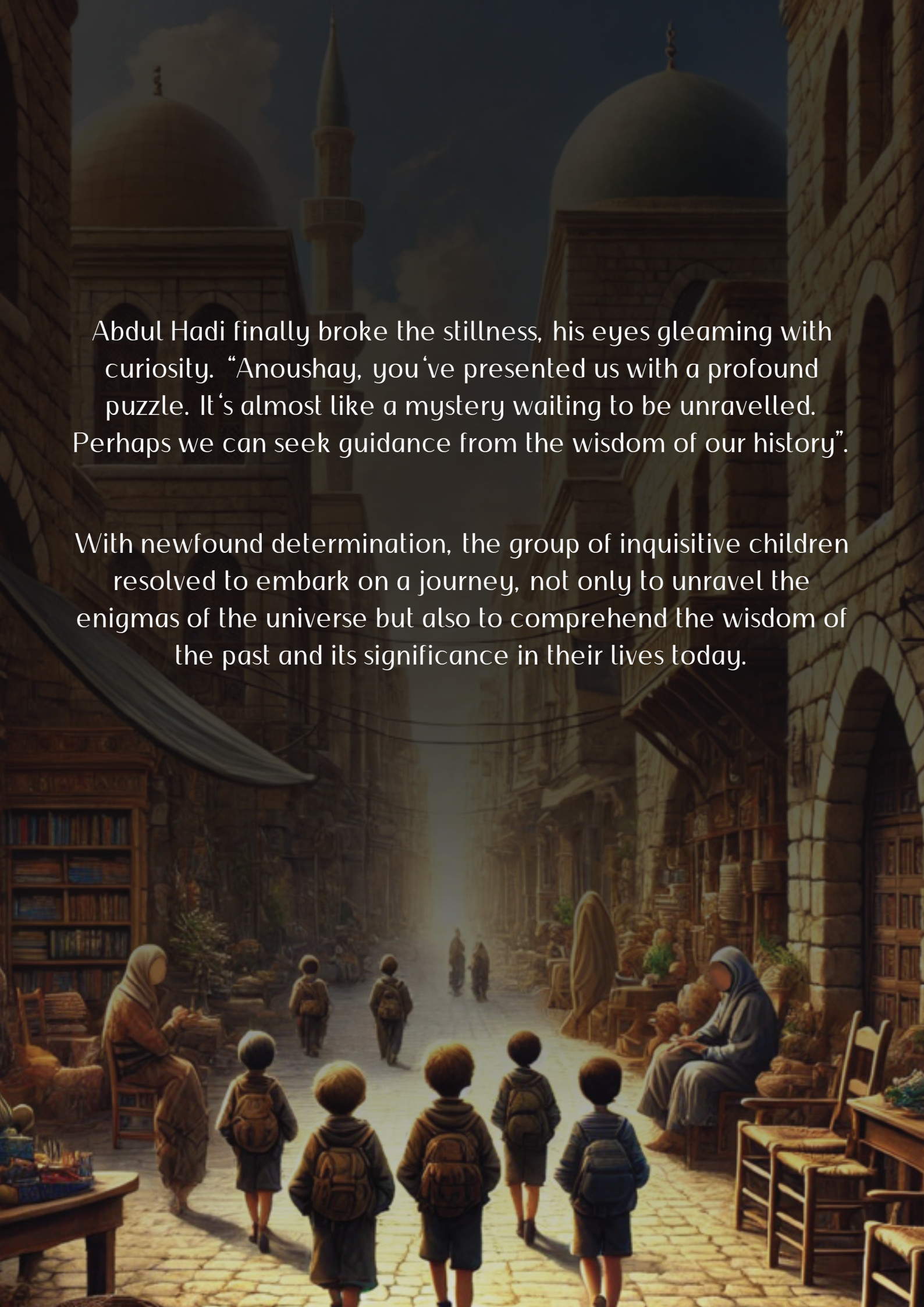
Anoushay nodded in agreement. "Exactly! It's as inconceivable as a light bulb radiating light without a power source, or a chair crafting itself. It leads us to wonder if we can't believe a chair could make itself, how could we fathom the universe with all its intricate workings existing without a Creator?"



Salaar, with a glint of contemplation in his eyes, interjected, “So, what you‘re suggesting is that if we can‘t comprehend a shop or a factory managing itself, how can we grasp the idea of the entire universe operating without a Creator?”

Anoushay smiled at Salaar‘s insight. “That‘s precisely it. If we can‘t accept a chair creating itself, how can we accept the universe, with all its wonders and complexities, coming into existence without an intelligent designer?”

Lost in thought, the group fell silent, each contemplating the implications of Anoushay‘s words.



Abdul Hadi finally broke the stillness, his eyes gleaming with curiosity. “Anoushay, you‘ve presented us with a profound puzzle. It‘s almost like a mystery waiting to be unravelled. Perhaps we can seek guidance from the wisdom of our history”.

With newfound determination, the group of inquisitive children resolved to embark on a journey, not only to unravel the enigmas of the universe but also to comprehend the wisdom of the past and its significance in their lives today.

CHAPTER 2:

UNRAVELLING THE GRAND DESIGN

As the sun set behind the distant hills, the five young friends found themselves still deep in conversation, their minds grappling with the profound notions presented by Anoushay. Each word stirred their thoughts and raised questions that led them to ponder the intricate design of the universe.

Anoushay, breaking the silence, mused, “If every successful venture requires a single, ultimate authority, wouldn‘t the vast system of the universe demand the same?”

Sukainah, with a furrowed brow, nodded in agreement. "It seems almost impossible for something as vast as the cosmos to run smoothly without a single guiding force. Look at the precision of the movements of the planets and the consistency of the natural laws."

Neither does it lie in the sun's power to overtake the moon nor can the night outstrip the day. All glide along, each in its own orbit.
Surah Ya-Sin (36:40)

Abdul Hadi, always quick to connect the dots, added, "And if even a small project cannot function efficiently with two leaders, how can the universe, with its millions of heavenly bodies and countless forces, operate without a single Supreme Being in control? "

The group nodded collectively, each beginning to grasp the weight of the argument. Musfirah, with a spark of understanding in her eyes, continued,"It's as if everything in the universe is interdependent, working together in perfect harmony. The day and night, the rain and the sun, even the growth of a tiny seed, all seem to depend on this complex collaboration."

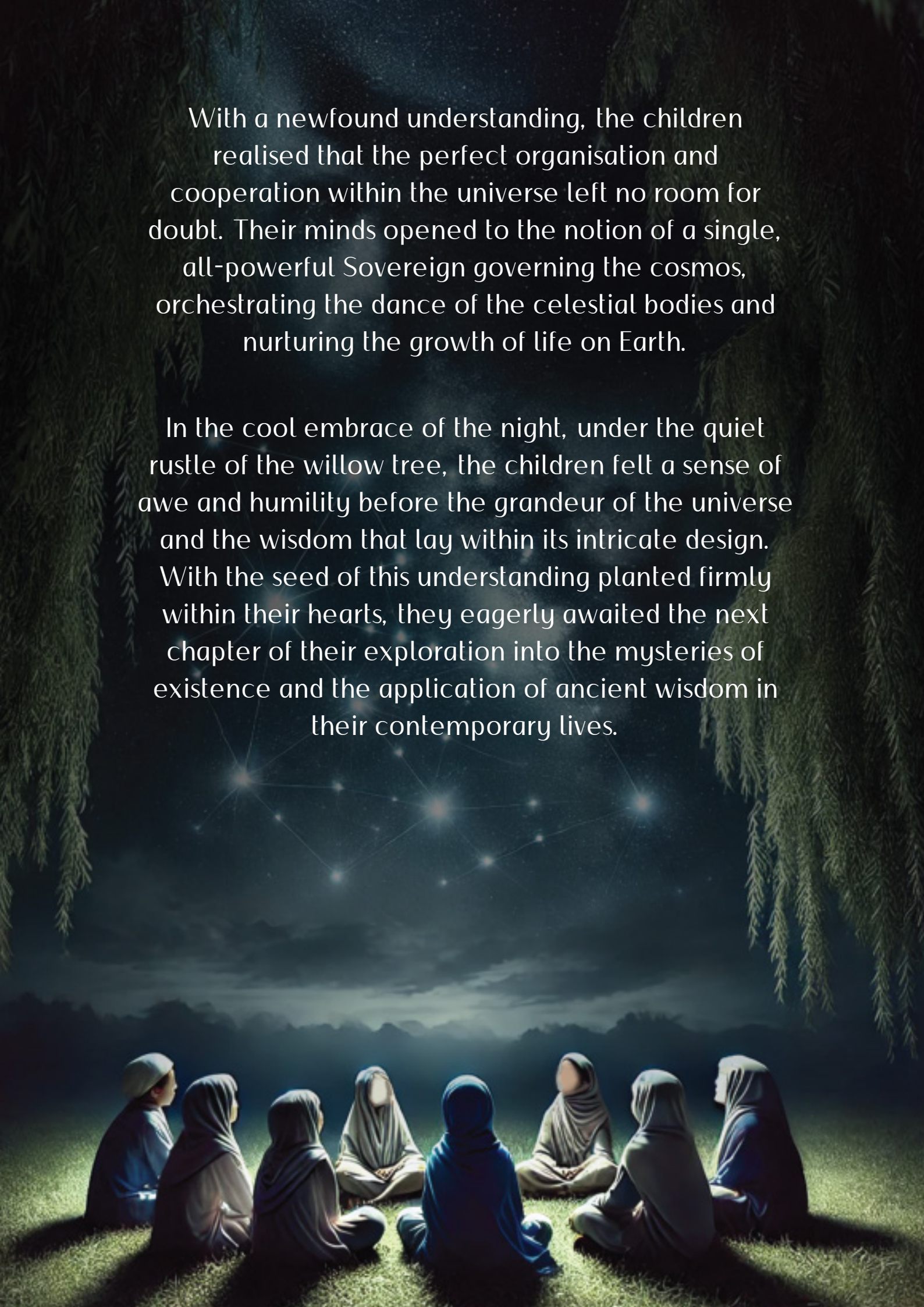
Salaar, with a sense of wonder, spoke up, “This intricate balance, the cooperation between all the elements of the world, from the smallest seed to the mightiest celestial body, seems to suggest a meticulous plan put in place by a single, all-encompassing Creator.”

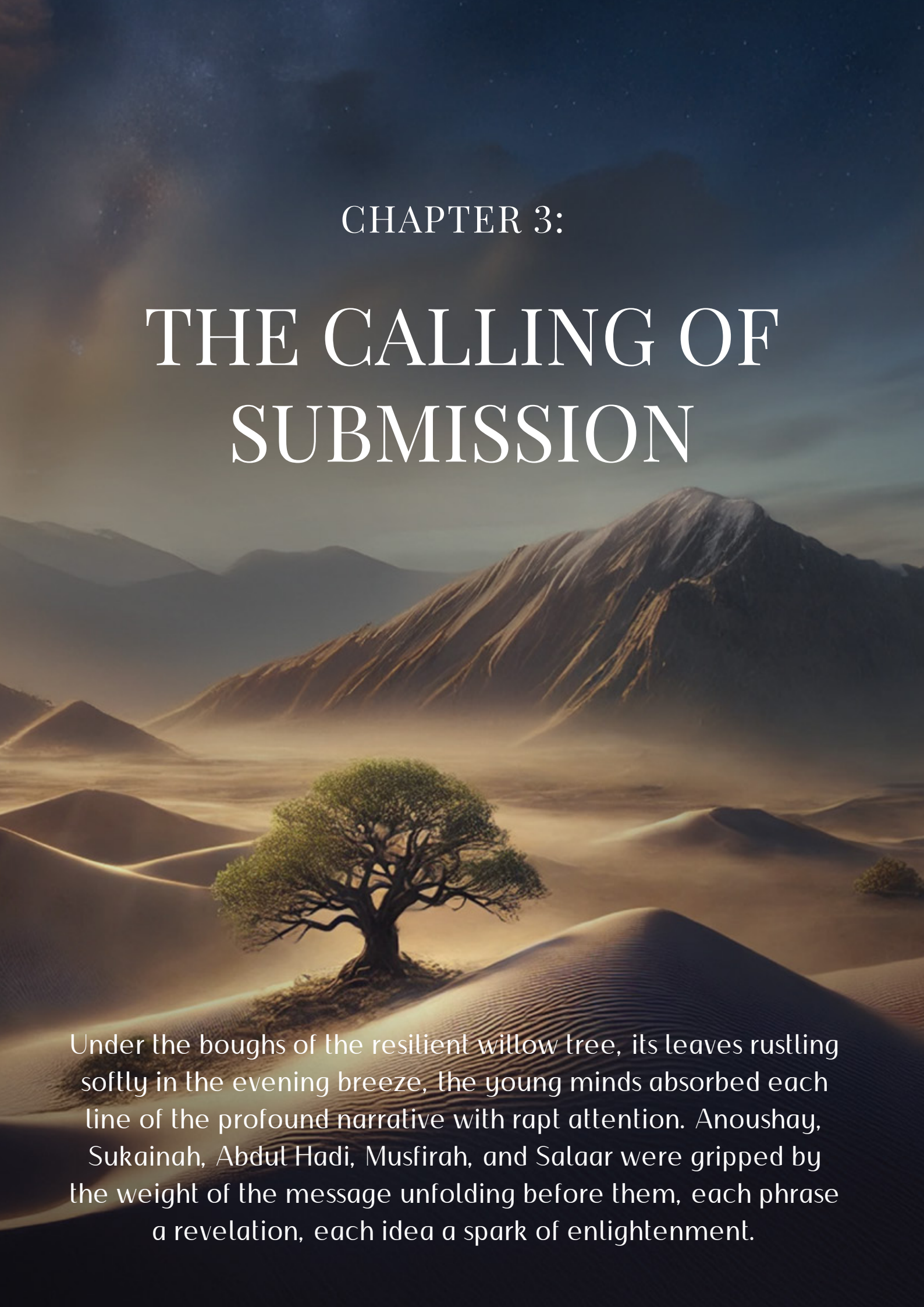
Anoushay, her eyes gleaming with conviction, concluded, “The order and regularity of the universe, the strict adherence of all its components to the laws that govern them, point towards a single Administrator. It‘s almost as if the entire universe, with its unfathomable complexities, operates under the command of one Divine Being.”

As the words settled, the children couldn‘t help but marvel at the interconnectedness of all things, each piece serving a purpose within the greater design. The night sky above them seemed to twinkle in agreement as if affirming the truths they had begun to unravel.

With a newfound understanding, the children realised that the perfect organisation and cooperation within the universe left no room for doubt. Their minds opened to the notion of a single, all-powerful Sovereign governing the cosmos, orchestrating the dance of the celestial bodies and nurturing the growth of life on Earth.

In the cool embrace of the night, under the quiet rustle of the willow tree, the children felt a sense of awe and humility before the grandeur of the universe and the wisdom that lay within its intricate design. With the seed of this understanding planted firmly within their hearts, they eagerly awaited the next chapter of their exploration into the mysteries of existence and the application of ancient wisdom in their contemporary lives.





CHAPTER 3:

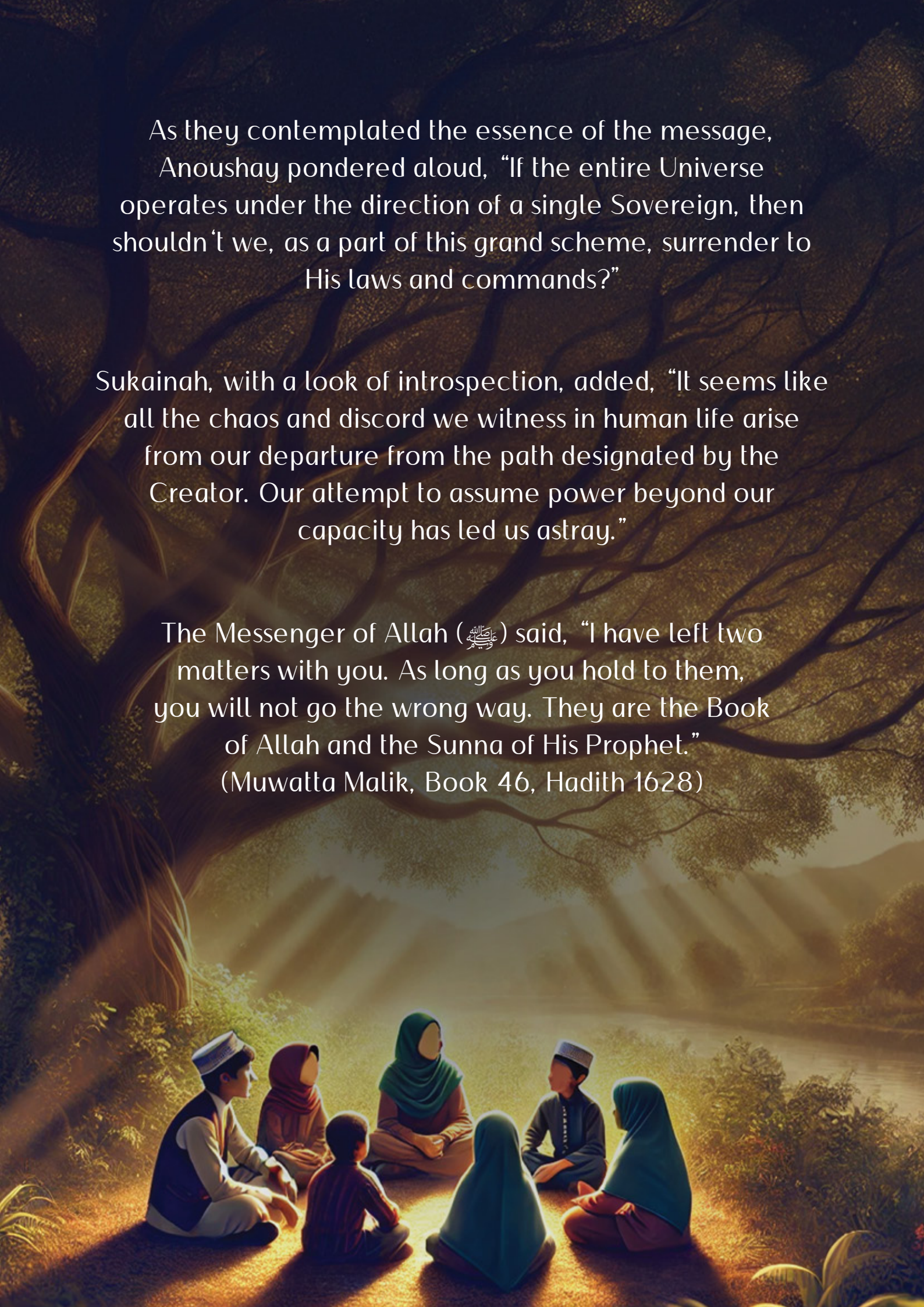
THE CALLING OF SUBMISSION

Under the boughs of the resilient willow tree, its leaves rustling softly in the evening breeze, the young minds absorbed each line of the profound narrative with rapt attention. Anoushay, Sukainah, Abdul Hadi, Musfirah, and Salaar were gripped by the weight of the message unfolding before them, each phrase a revelation, each idea a spark of enlightenment.

As they contemplated the essence of the message, Anoushay pondered aloud, "If the entire Universe operates under the direction of a single Sovereign, then shouldn't we, as a part of this grand scheme, surrender to His laws and commands?"

Sukainah, with a look of introspection, added, "It seems like all the chaos and discord we witness in human life arise from our departure from the path designated by the Creator. Our attempt to assume power beyond our capacity has led us astray."

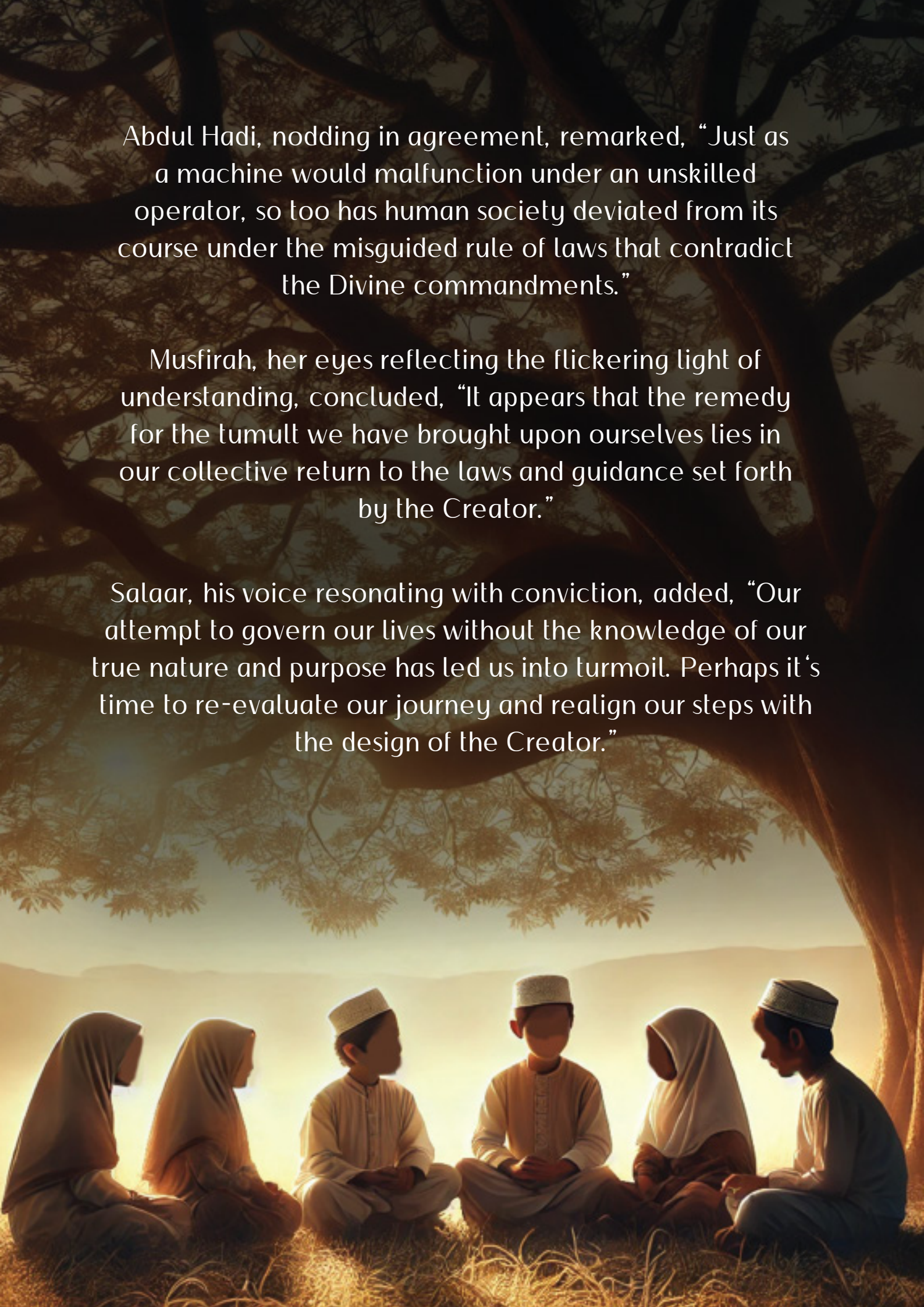
The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, "I have left two matters with you. As long as you hold to them, you will not go the wrong way. They are the Book of Allah and the Sunna of His Prophet."
(Muwatta Malik, Book 46, Hadith 1628)

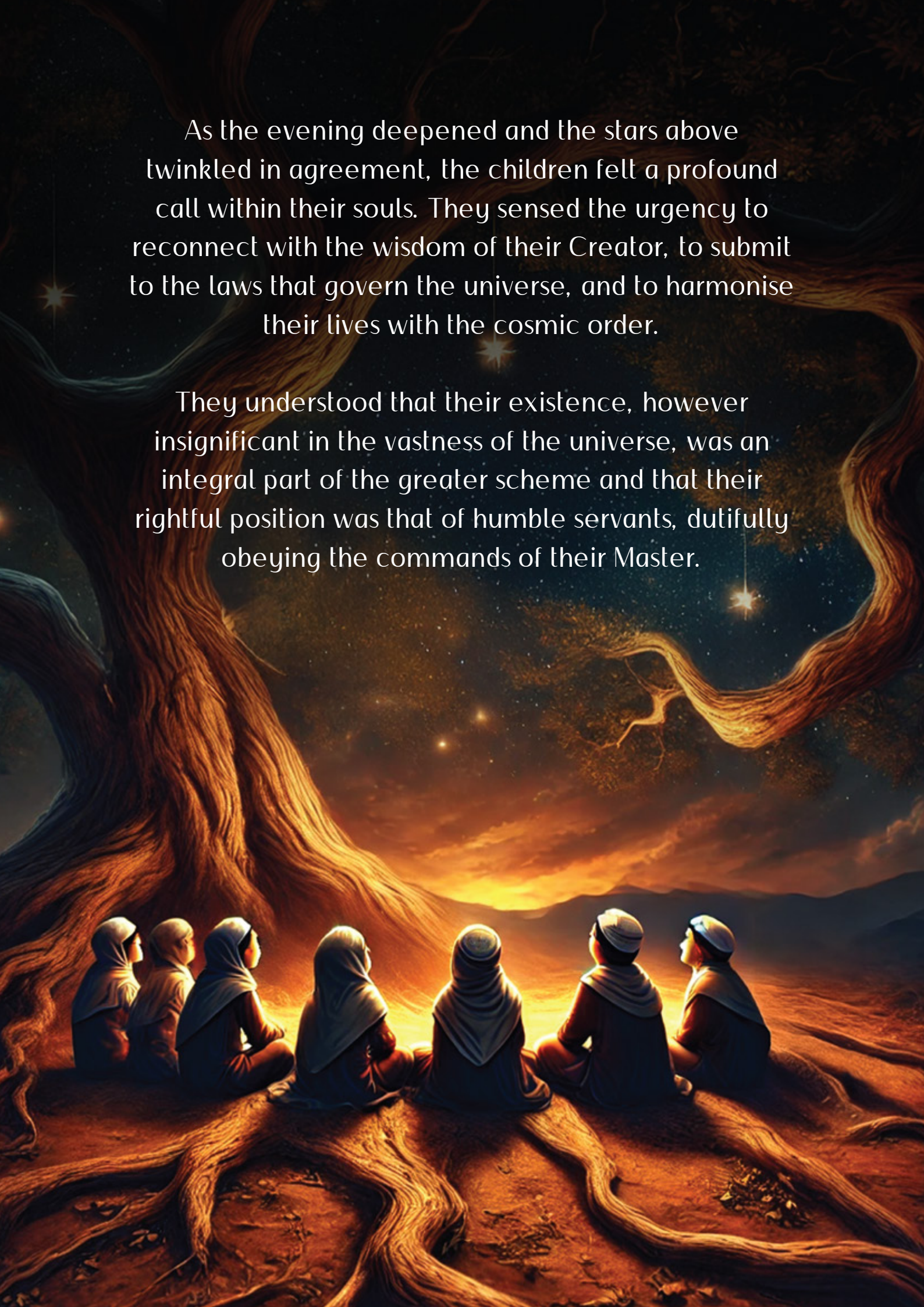


Abdul Hadi, nodding in agreement, remarked, "Just as a machine would malfunction under an unskilled operator, so too has human society deviated from its course under the misguided rule of laws that contradict the Divine commandments."

Musfirah, her eyes reflecting the flickering light of understanding, concluded, "It appears that the remedy for the tumult we have brought upon ourselves lies in our collective return to the laws and guidance set forth by the Creator."

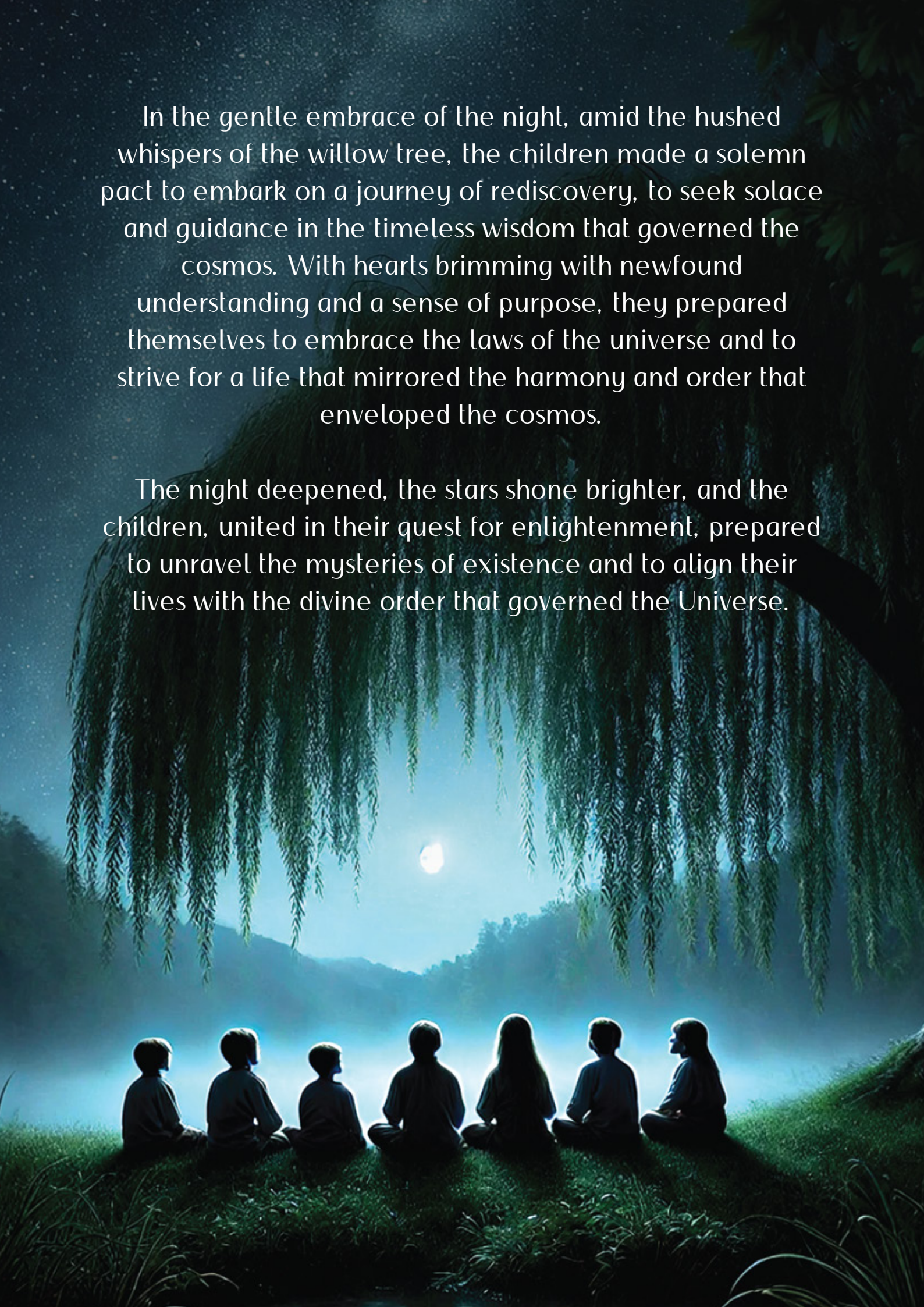
Salaar, his voice resonating with conviction, added, "Our attempt to govern our lives without the knowledge of our true nature and purpose has led us into turmoil. Perhaps it's time to re-evaluate our journey and realign our steps with the design of the Creator."





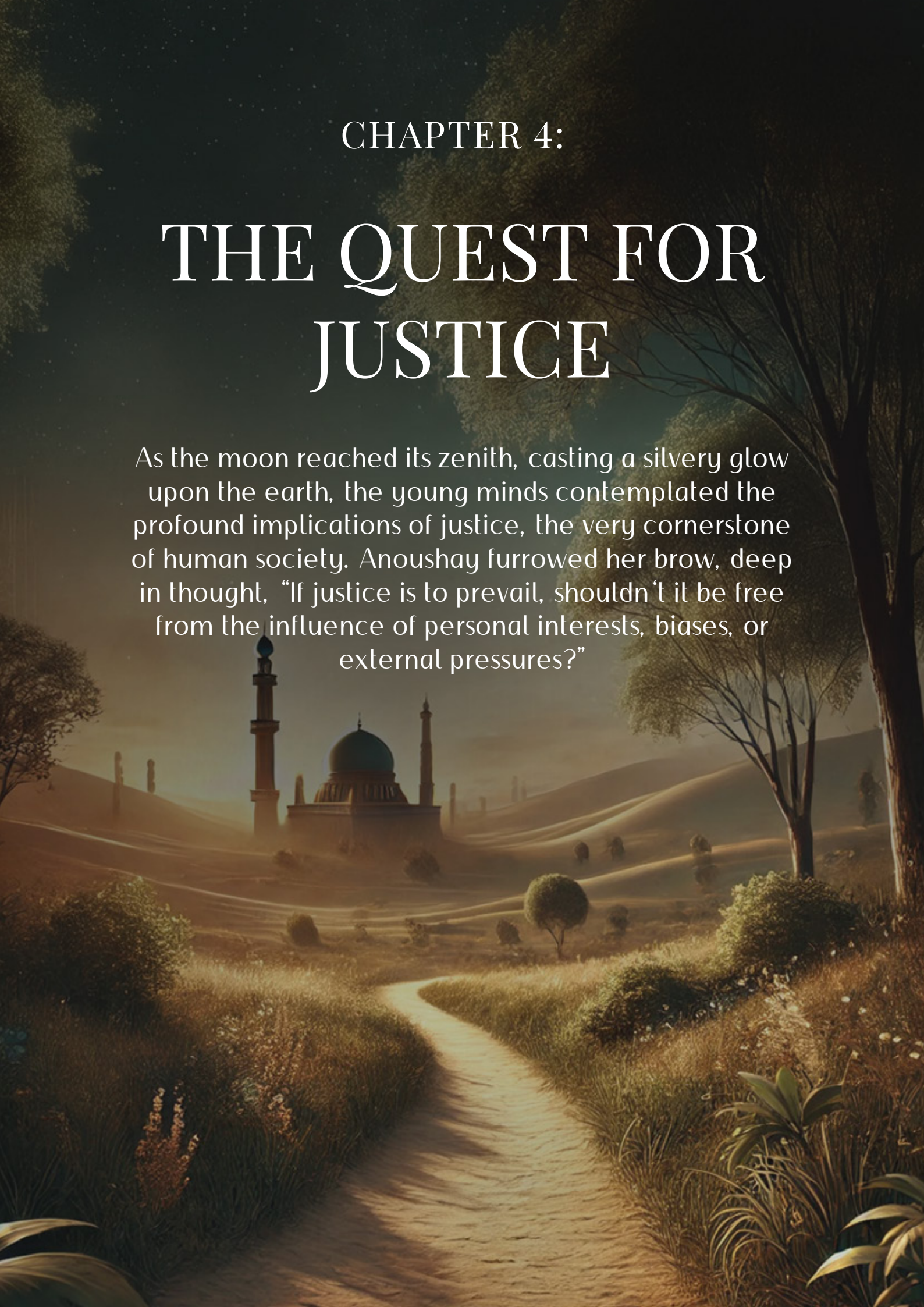
As the evening deepened and the stars above twinkled in agreement, the children felt a profound call within their souls. They sensed the urgency to reconnect with the wisdom of their Creator, to submit to the laws that govern the universe, and to harmonise their lives with the cosmic order.

They understood that their existence, however insignificant in the vastness of the universe, was an integral part of the greater scheme and that their rightful position was that of humble servants, dutifully obeying the commands of their Master.



In the gentle embrace of the night, amid the hushed whispers of the willow tree, the children made a solemn pact to embark on a journey of rediscovery, to seek solace and guidance in the timeless wisdom that governed the cosmos. With hearts brimming with newfound understanding and a sense of purpose, they prepared themselves to embrace the laws of the universe and to strive for a life that mirrored the harmony and order that enveloped the cosmos.

The night deepened, the stars shone brighter, and the children, united in their quest for enlightenment, prepared to unravel the mysteries of existence and to align their lives with the divine order that governed the Universe.



CHAPTER 4:

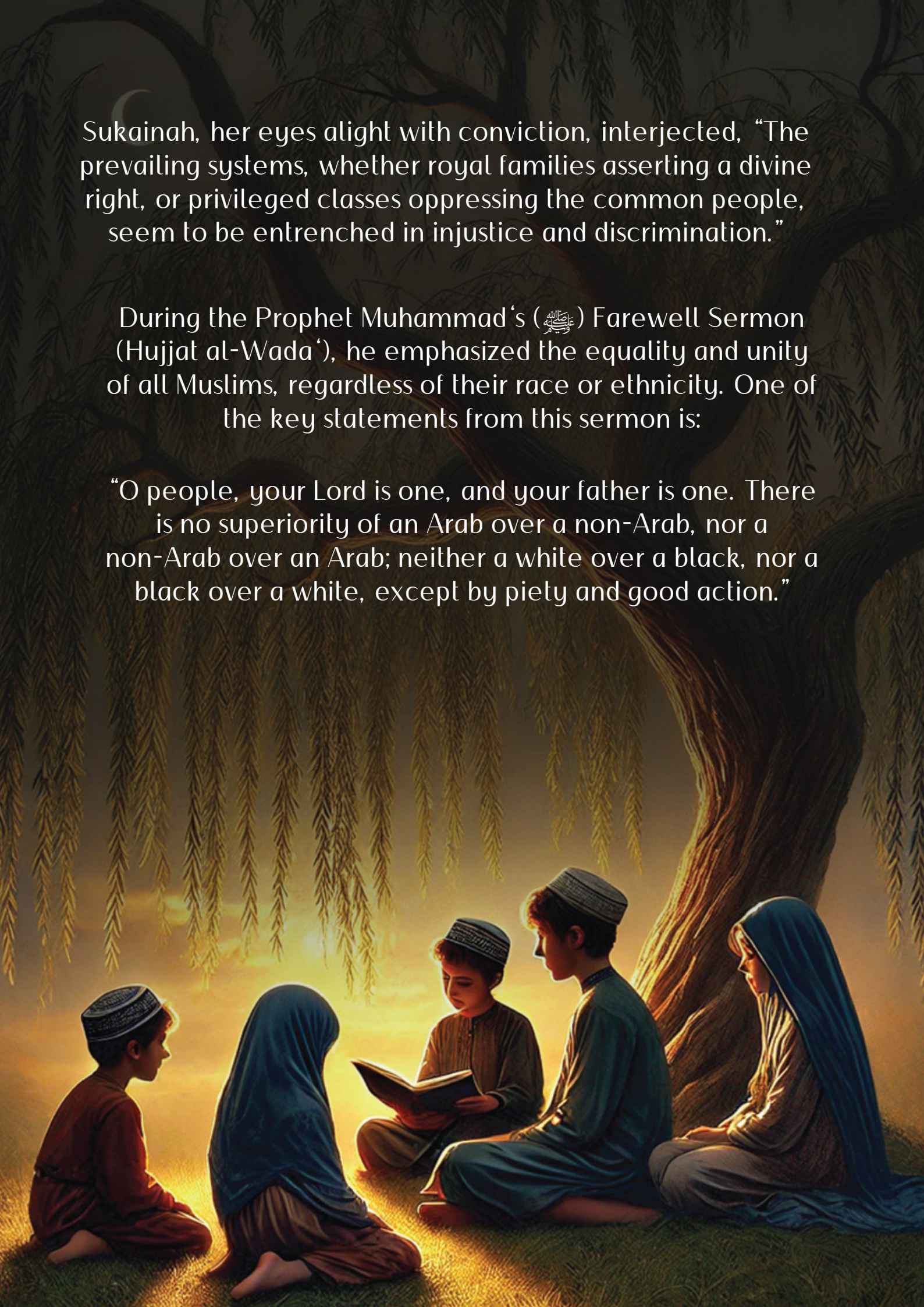
THE QUEST FOR JUSTICE

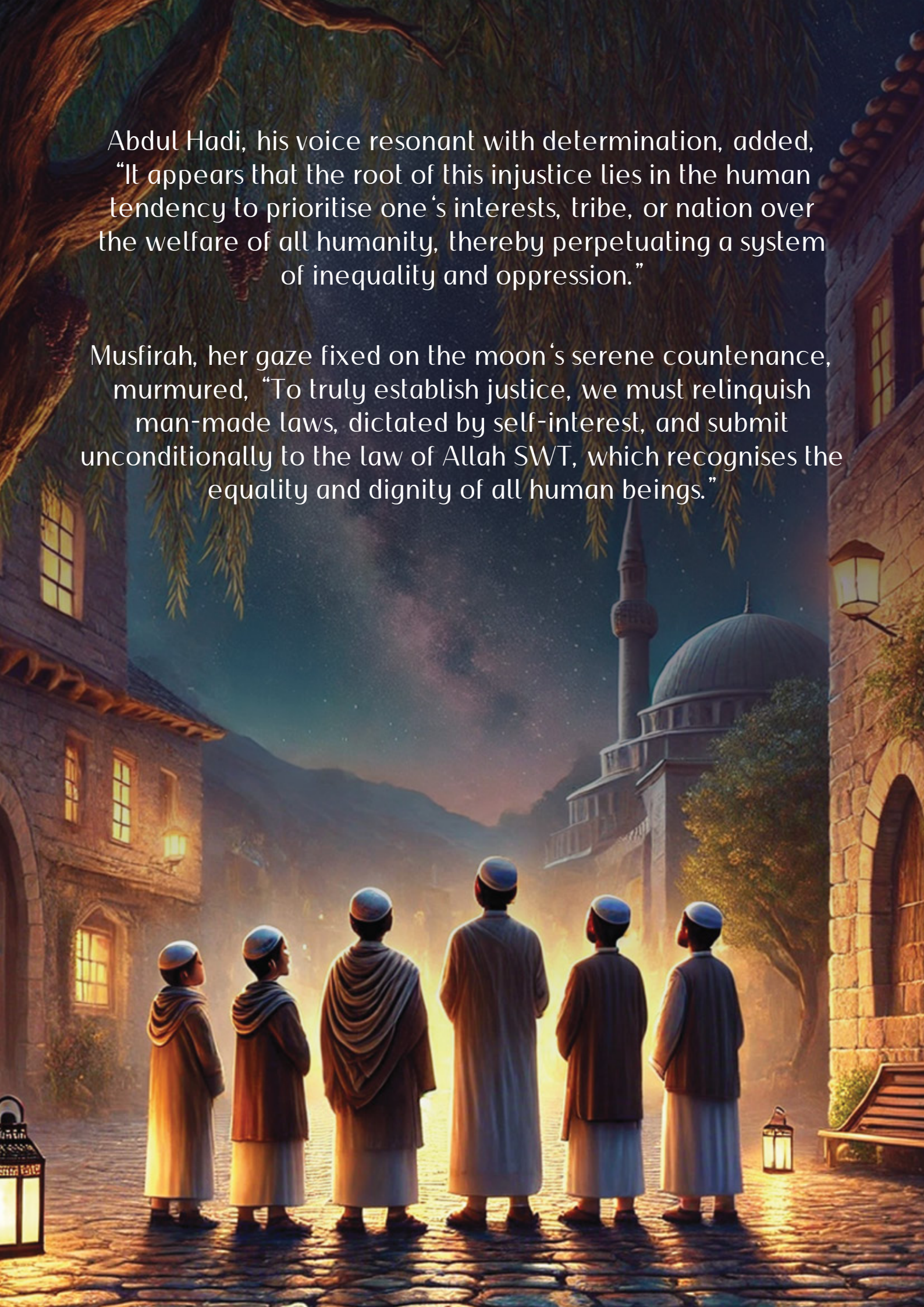
As the moon reached its zenith, casting a silvery glow upon the earth, the young minds contemplated the profound implications of justice, the very cornerstone of human society. Anoushay furrowed her brow, deep in thought, "If justice is to prevail, shouldn't it be free from the influence of personal interests, biases, or external pressures?"

Sukainah, her eyes alight with conviction, interjected, “The prevailing systems, whether royal families asserting a divine right, or privileged classes oppressing the common people, seem to be entrenched in injustice and discrimination.”

During the Prophet Muhammad‘s (ﷺ) Farewell Sermon (Hujjat al-Wada‘), he emphasized the equality and unity of all Muslims, regardless of their race or ethnicity. One of the key statements from this sermon is:

“O people, your Lord is one, and your father is one. There is no superiority of an Arab over a non-Arab, nor a non-Arab over an Arab; neither a white over a black, nor a black over a white, except by piety and good action.”





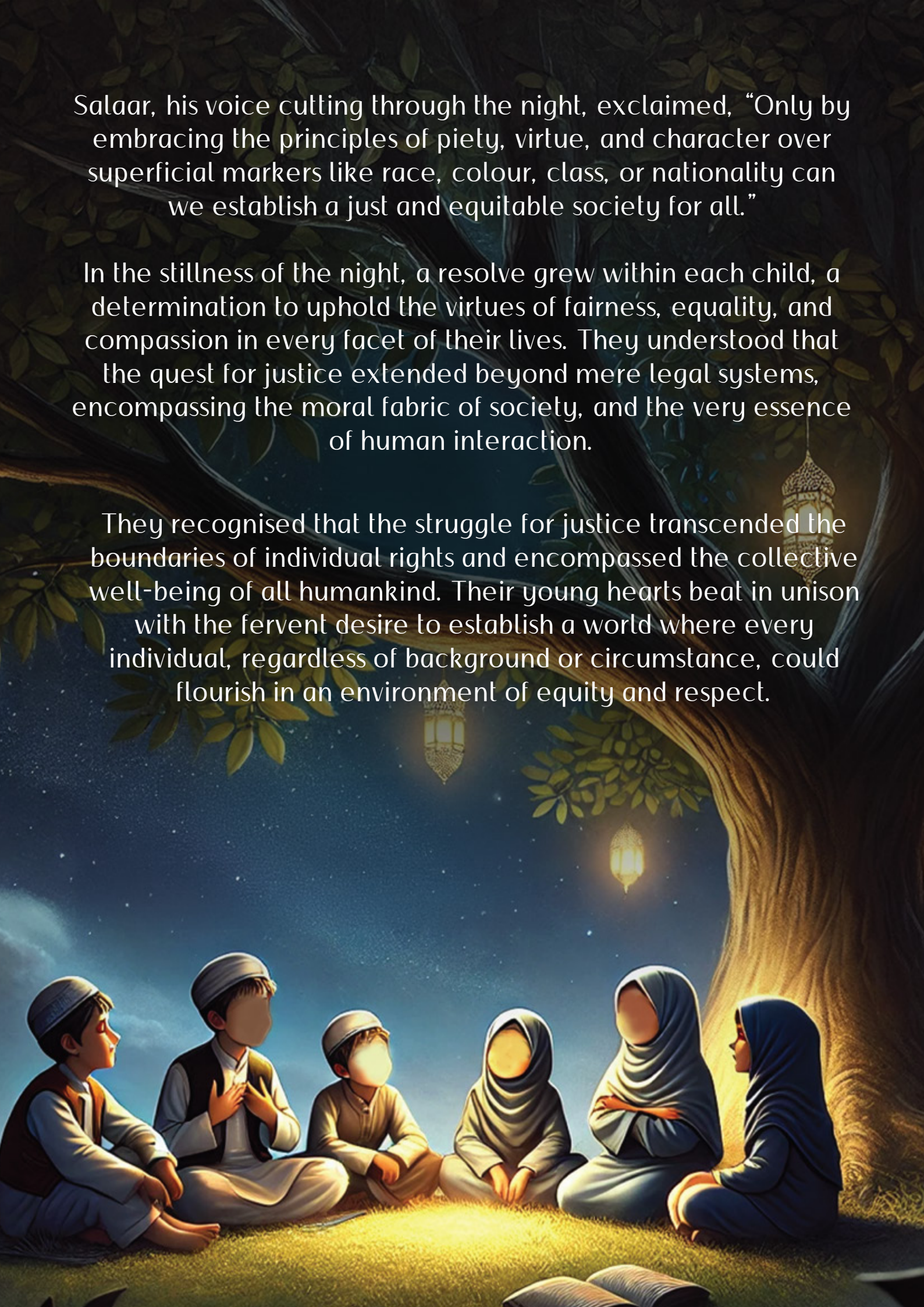
Abdul Hadi, his voice resonant with determination, added, "It appears that the root of this injustice lies in the human tendency to prioritise one's interests, tribe, or nation over the welfare of all humanity, thereby perpetuating a system of inequality and oppression."

Musfirah, her gaze fixed on the moon's serene countenance, murmured, "To truly establish justice, we must relinquish man-made laws, dictated by self-interest, and submit unconditionally to the law of Allah SWT, which recognises the equality and dignity of all human beings."

Salaar, his voice cutting through the night, exclaimed, “Only by embracing the principles of piety, virtue, and character over superficial markers like race, colour, class, or nationality can we establish a just and equitable society for all.”

In the stillness of the night, a resolve grew within each child, a determination to uphold the virtues of fairness, equality, and compassion in every facet of their lives. They understood that the quest for justice extended beyond mere legal systems, encompassing the moral fabric of society, and the very essence of human interaction.

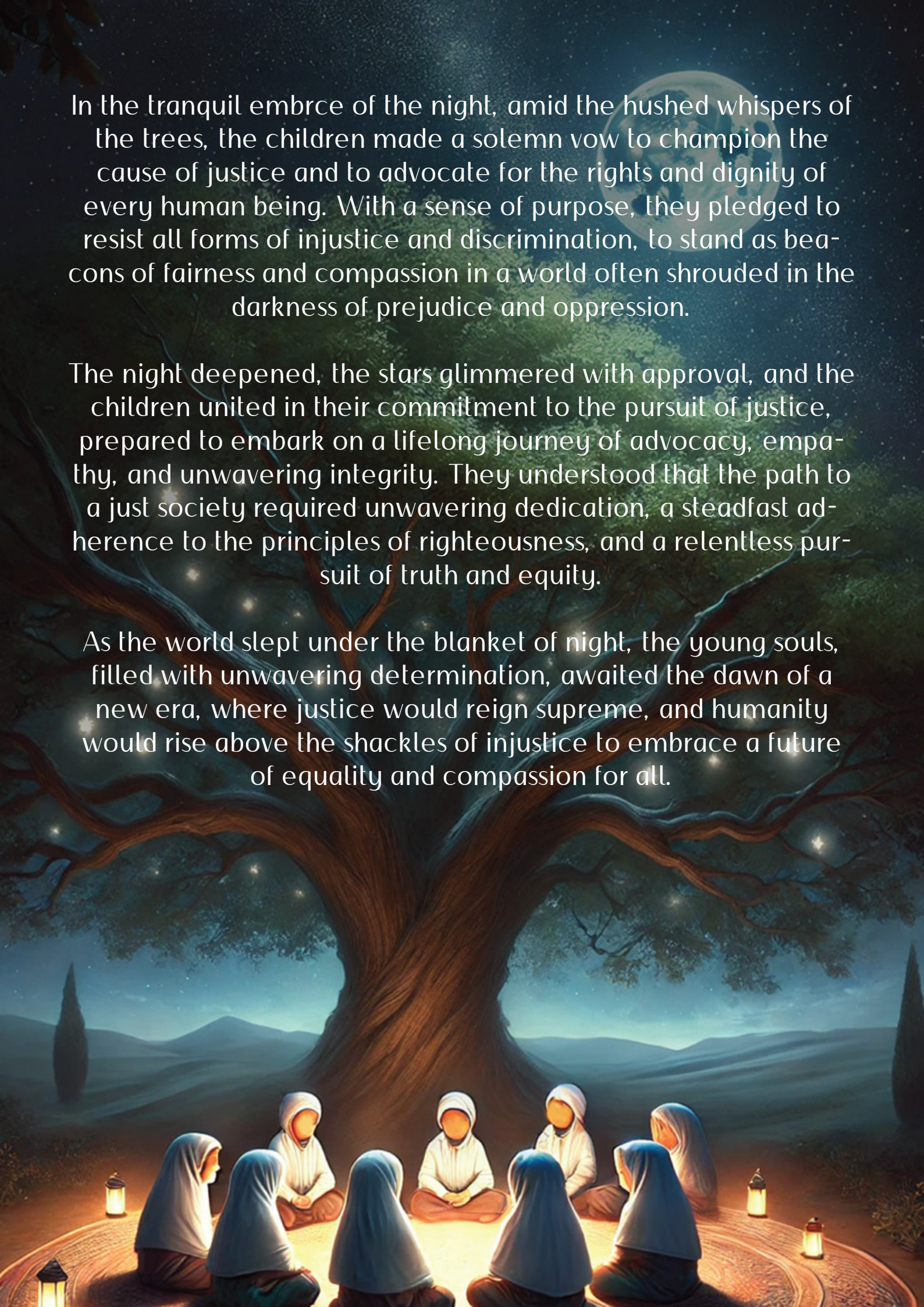
They recognised that the struggle for justice transcended the boundaries of individual rights and encompassed the collective well-being of all humankind. Their young hearts beat in unison with the fervent desire to establish a world where every individual, regardless of background or circumstance, could flourish in an environment of equity and respect.



In the tranquil embrce of the night, amid the hushed whispers of the trees, the children made a solemn vow to champion the cause of justice and to advocate for the rights and dignity of every human being. With a sense of purpose, they pledged to resist all forms of injustice and discrimination, to stand as beacons of fairness and compassion in a world often shrouded in the darkness of prejudice and oppression.

The night deepened, the stars glimmered with approval, and the children united in their commitment to the pursuit of justice, prepared to embark on a lifelong journey of advocacy, empathy, and unwavering integrity. They understood that the path to a just society required unwavering dedication, a steadfast adherence to the principles of righteousness, and a relentless pursuit of truth and equity.

As the world slept under the blanket of night, the young souls, filled with unwavering determination, awaited the dawn of a new era, where justice would reign supreme, and humanity would rise above the shackles of injustice to embrace a future of equality and compassion for all.

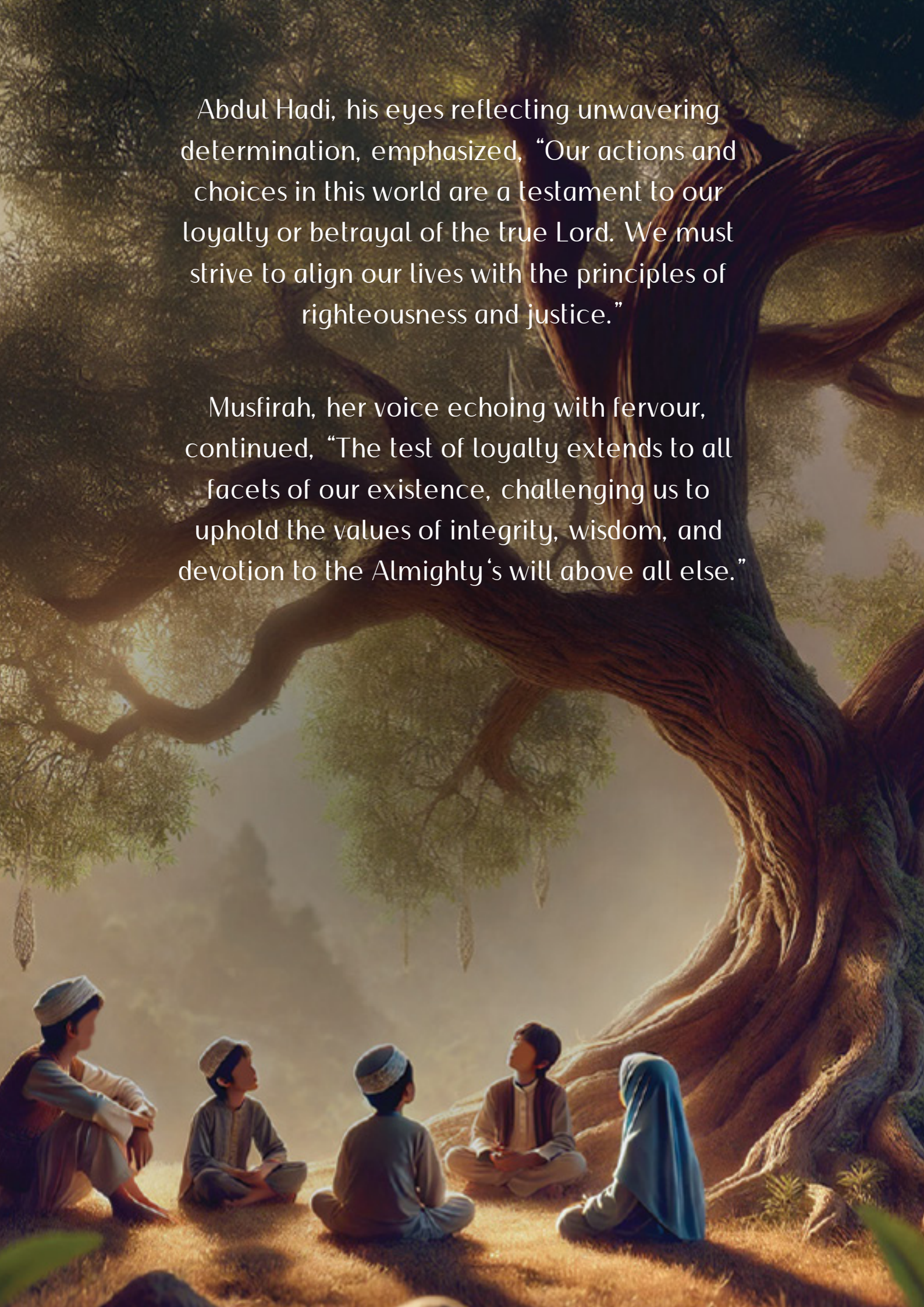


CHAPTER 5:

THE TRIAL OF LOYALTY

As dawn broke over the horizon, casting a warm glow upon the world, the concept of loyalty pervaded the minds of those who sought the path of righteousness. Anoushay gazed into the golden hues of the rising sun and contemplated the essence of faithfulness, "In the grand trial of life, our loyalty to the Almighty Allah is the ultimate test of our integrity and devotion."

Sukainah, her heart resonating with conviction, added, " Just as a wise and dutiful governor remains steadfast in his allegiance to the sovereign, we must never forget our position as humble subjects under the authority of the Divine Master."

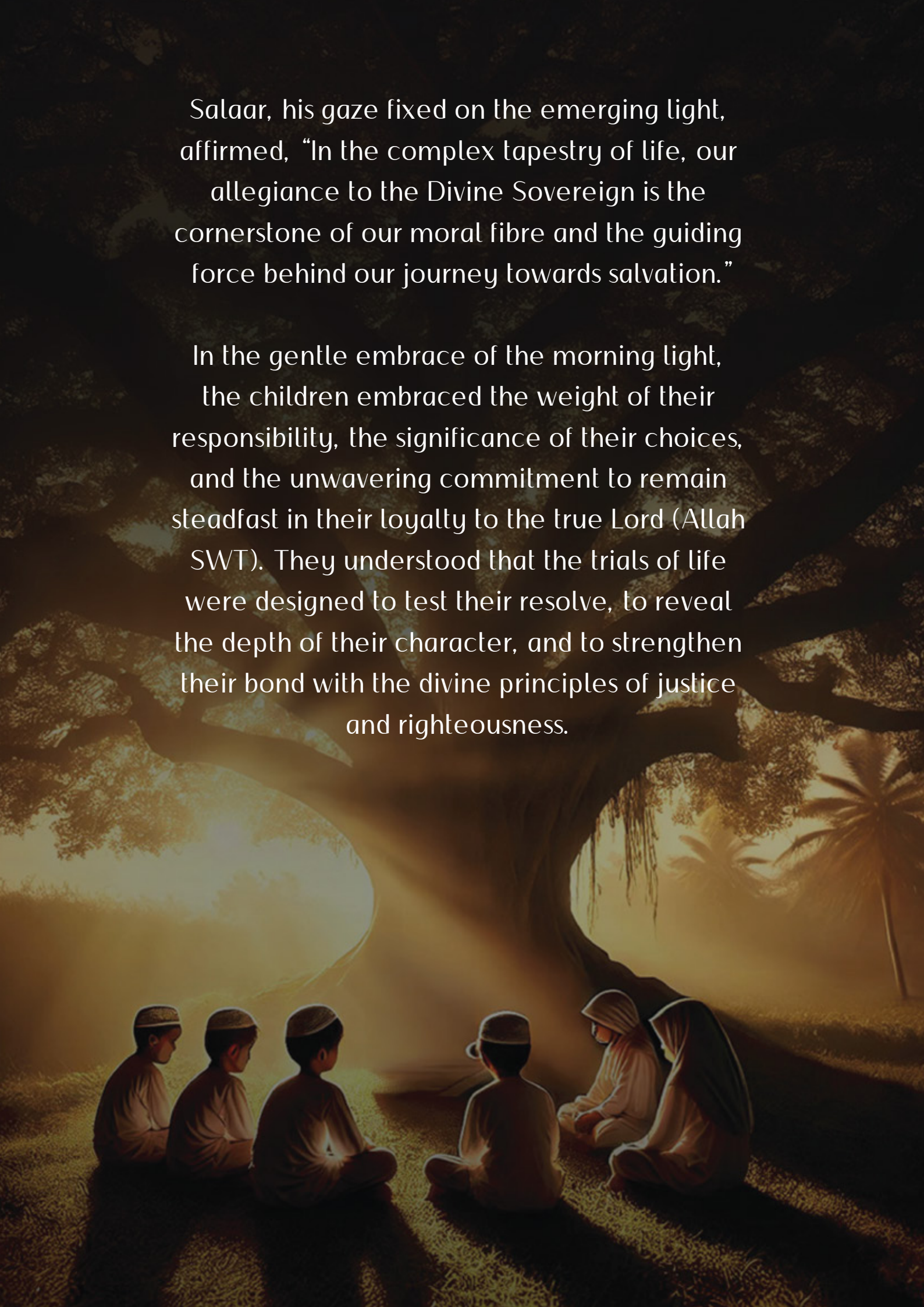


Abdul Hadi, his eyes reflecting unwavering determination, emphasized, "Our actions and choices in this world are a testament to our loyalty or betrayal of the true Lord. We must strive to align our lives with the principles of righteousness and justice."

Musfirah, her voice echoing with fervour, continued, "The test of loyalty extends to all facets of our existence, challenging us to uphold the values of integrity, wisdom, and devotion to the Almighty's will above all else."

Salaar, his gaze fixed on the emerging light, affirmed, "In the complex tapestry of life, our allegiance to the Divine Sovereign is the cornerstone of our moral fibre and the guiding force behind our journey towards salvation."

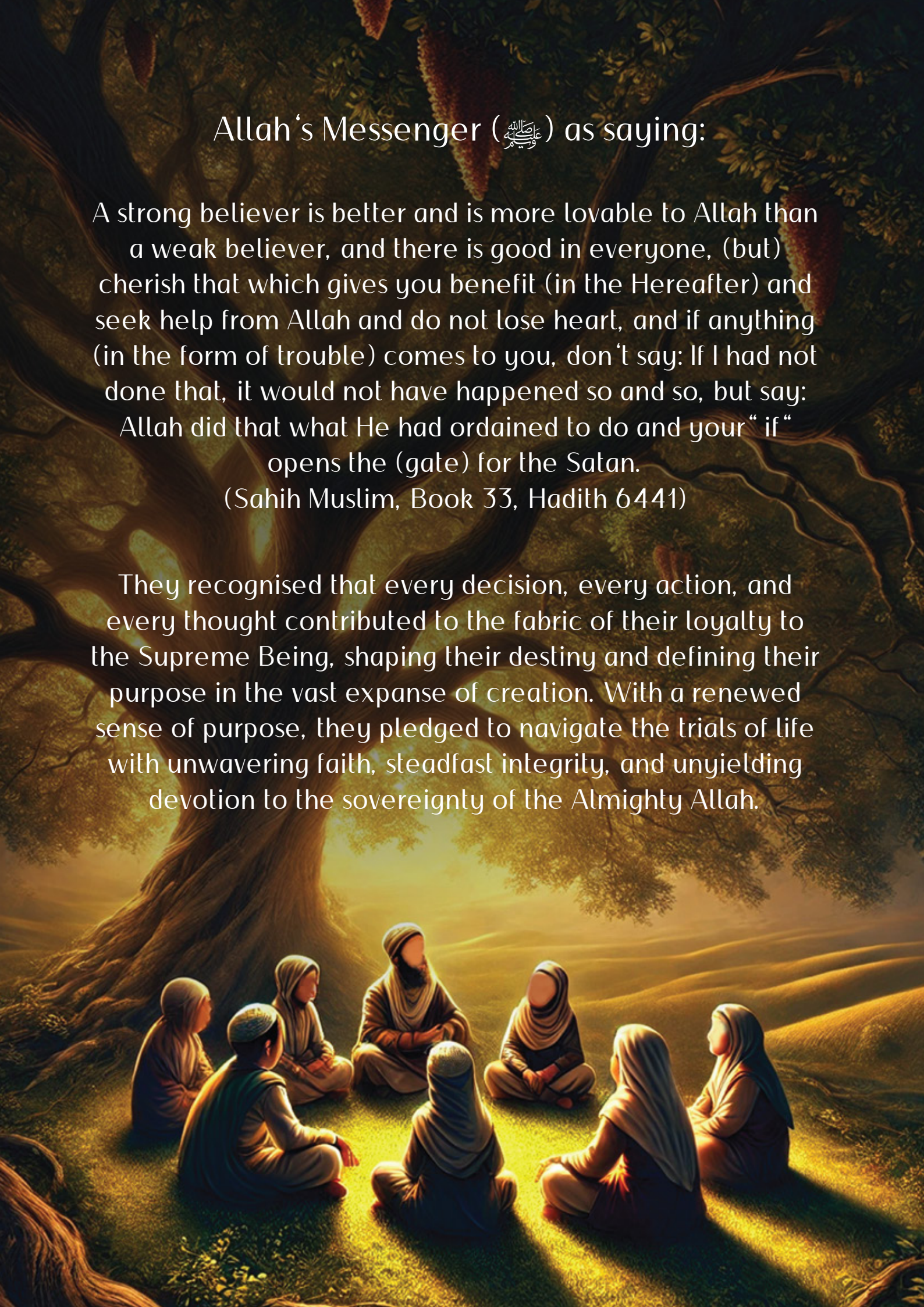
In the gentle embrace of the morning light, the children embraced the weight of their responsibility, the significance of their choices, and the unwavering commitment to remain steadfast in their loyalty to the true Lord (Allah SWT). They understood that the trials of life were designed to test their resolve, to reveal the depth of their character, and to strengthen their bond with the divine principles of justice and righteousness.

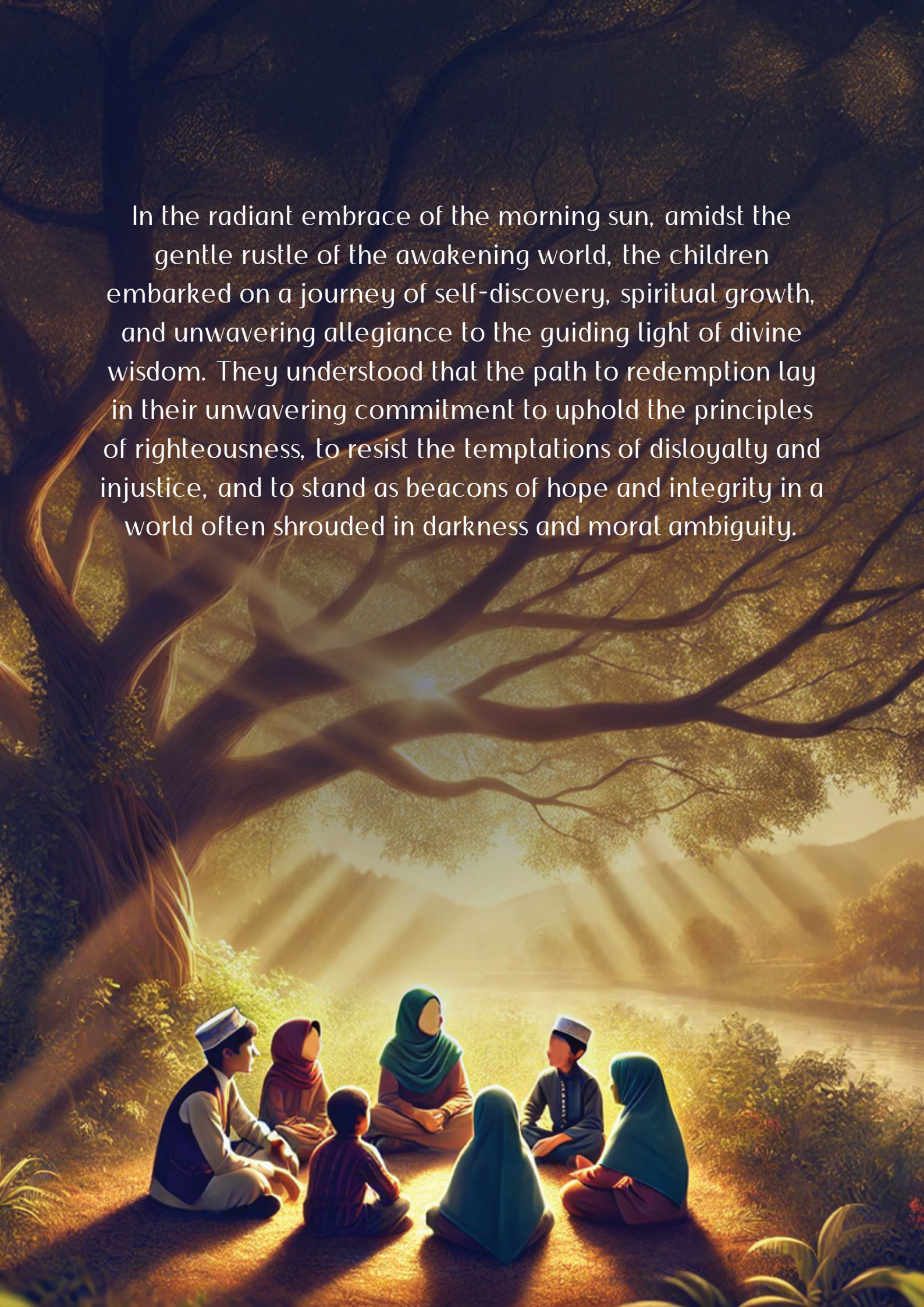


Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) as saying:

A strong believer is better and is more lovable to Allah than a weak believer, and there is good in everyone, (but) cherish that which gives you benefit (in the Hereafter) and seek help from Allah and do not lose heart, and if anything (in the form of trouble) comes to you, don't say: If I had not done that, it would not have happened so and so, but say: Allah did that what He had ordained to do and your " if " opens the (gate) for the Satan.
(Sahih Muslim, Book 33, Hadith 6441)

They recognised that every decision, every action, and every thought contributed to the fabric of their loyalty to the Supreme Being, shaping their destiny and defining their purpose in the vast expanse of creation. With a renewed sense of purpose, they pledged to navigate the trials of life with unwavering faith, steadfast integrity, and unyielding devotion to the sovereignty of the Almighty Allah.





In the radiant embrace of the morning sun, amidst the gentle rustle of the awakening world, the children embarked on a journey of self-discovery, spiritual growth, and unwavering allegiance to the guiding light of divine wisdom. They understood that the path to redemption lay in their unwavering commitment to uphold the principles of righteousness, to resist the temptations of disloyalty and injustice, and to stand as beacons of hope and integrity in a world often shrouded in darkness and moral ambiguity.

As the sun rose higher in the sky, casting its benevolent rays upon the earth, the children embraced the profound truth that their loyalty to the Almighty would guide their every step, illuminate their path in times of darkness, and empower them to overcome the trials and tribulations that lay ahead. With hearts brimming with devotion and minds steeped in the wisdom of divine guidance, they set forth on their journey, their spirits unyielding and their resolve unwavering, ready to face the trials of life with courage, faith, and unshakeable loyalty to the Sovereign of the Universe.

Key Lessons on Spiritual Integrity and Growth

The story encourages readers to reflect on the choices they make in life, contemplate the consequences of those choices, and grasp the significance of recognising a higher moral authority. It suggests that individuals, by opting for loyalty, justice, and righteousness, hold the potential to contribute to a more harmonious and virtuous world. As we accompany the characters on their journey, we witness the transformative power of making virtuous choices, even when confronted with temptation and adversity. The story stands as a poignant reminder that, in our own lives, we too possess the capacity to choose the path of goodness and exert a positive influence on the world around us.

Lesson 1: The Test of Loyalty

The story underscores that life serves as a test of loyalty to a higher power or moral principles. Similar to the governor in the story who was granted autonomy to evaluate his loyalty, human beings are endowed with free will to select between allegiance to Allah's guidance or rebellion.

Lesson 2: Freedom of Choice

The narrative accentuates the significance of free will. It posits that Allah bestows upon humans the freedom to make choices, including the choice to be loyal or rebellious. This liberty constitutes a fundamental aspect of the human experience.

Lesson 3: Consequences of Choices

The story emphasises that every choice carries consequences. In instances of rebellion or disloyalty, the repercussions can be severe. It serves as a potent reminder that our actions hold repercussions, underscoring the need for prudent decision-making.

Lesson 4: Guidance from Nature

Nature is portrayed as a reflection of Allah's order and justice. This serves to highlight the notion that we can find guidance and wisdom in the natural world. Observing the harmony and equilibrium in nature can inspire us to align our lives with moral and ethical principles.

Lesson 5: Setting an Example

The characters in the story embark on a mission to set an example for others. This vividly illustrates the importance of leading by example in propagating positive values and motivating others to opt for loyalty and righteousness.

Lesson 6: Striving for Justice

Justice is a recurring theme in the story, suggesting that the pursuit of justice and equity in our actions and decisions is imperative. This dedication to justice can pave the way for a better world where the rights and dignity of all individuals are upheld.

Lesson 7: Recognising Allah's Sovereignty

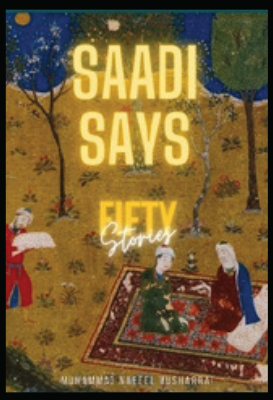
At its core, the story underscores the recognition of Allah's sovereignty. It serves as a poignant reminder that acknowledging a higher power or moral authority can furnish guidance and purpose in life.

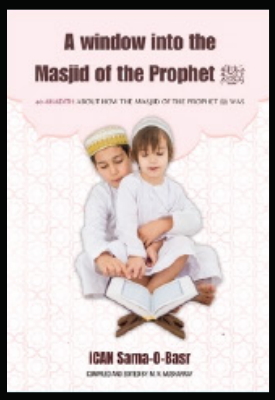
Lesson 8: The Journey of Self-Discovery

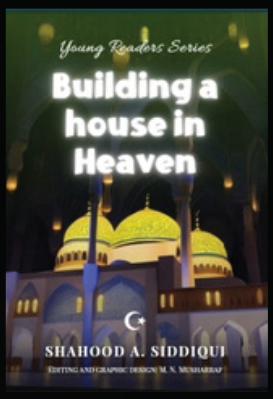
Throughout the narrative, the characters engage in self-reflection and deep introspection. This serves to promote the idea that the journey of self-discovery and spiritual growth constitutes an integral facet of life.

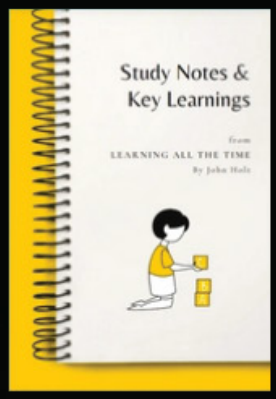
SHAHOOD A. SIDDIQUI

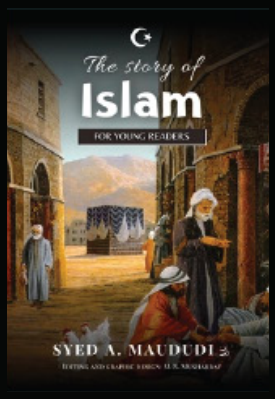
SOME OF OUR OTHER PUBLICATION FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

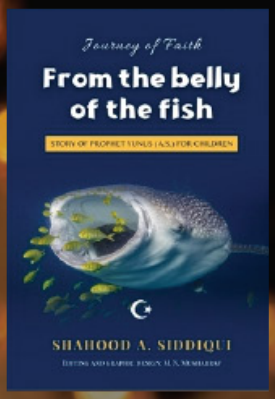


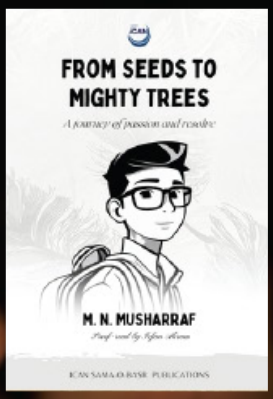


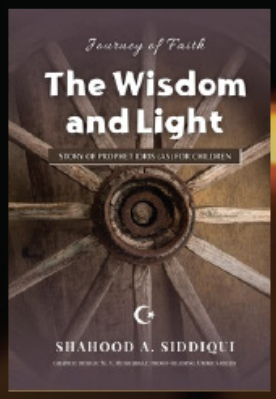


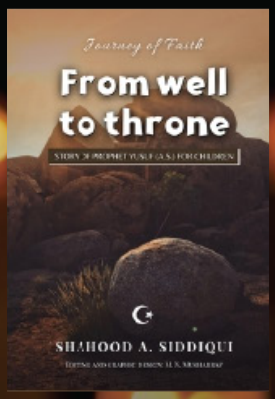












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